



# News Release

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For Release

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## **NASA CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE FOUND GUILTY OF SENDING HARMFUL MATTER TO A MINOR**

On November 15, 1999, an Antelope Valley Municipal Court jury found Thomas Ryan Nault, a contractor employee working at the Dryden Flight Research Center, guilty of three counts of sending harmful matter to a minor. The same jury found Nault not guilty on five counts of sending harmful matter to a minor with the intent to seduce the minor. The jury deadlocked on two remaining counts of the latter charge. Nault will be sentenced on December 7, 1999.

In November 1998, Nault was arrested and charged with seven counts of sending harmful matter to a minor with the intent to seduce the minor. Nault pled not guilty and requested a trial by jury.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents from the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations, and Investigators from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations with cooperation from the Dryden Security Office. The prosecution was handled by Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Fairtlough, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Lancaster, California, (661) 945-6425.

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